

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method of preventing falsification of an image ~~of a produced image~~ produced in an imaging apparatus, comprising the steps of:

extracting a first image characteristic amount, by using ~~a specified~~ one randomly selected algorithm from of a plurality of algorithms in each photographing session ~~from said produced image in said imaging apparatus;~~

recording identification information of said produced image in said imaging apparatus and said first image characteristic amount into a database of an authentication section which authenticates a status that there is no falsification in said produced image;

~~regarding as an~~ requesting authentication of an object image ~~whose authentication is requested~~ to said authentication section,

extracting a second image characteristic amount by using said ~~specified~~ randomly selected algorithm from said ~~authentication~~ object image;

comparing said first image characteristic amount with said second image characteristic amount, in which said extracted authentication data and said authentication data recorded in said database have the same identification information; and

judging whether or not said ~~authentication~~ object image is falsified after said image production, based on consistency between said first and second image characteristic amounts acquired from said comparison in order to prevent said falsification of said produced image based on said judgment.

2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said imaging apparatus has a camera, in which said produced image is a photographic image photographed by said camera, in which said identification information is at least an identification information of ~~said camera or~~ a file name of said photographic image or an identification information for a photographer of said photographic image.

3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said imaging apparatus has a computer in which said produced image is a computer graphics image produced by said computer or an image which has been image-processed by said computer, and said identification information is at least an identification information of ~~said computer or~~ a file name of said produced image, or an identification information of a producer of said produced image.

4. (currently amended) A method of preventing falsification of an produced image produced in an imaging apparatus, comprising the steps of:

producing an image to acquire a first image data of the produced image ~~in said imaging apparatus,~~

recording identification information for identifying said produced image ~~by said imaging apparatus~~ and said first image data of said produced image ~~by said imaging apparatus~~ into a database in an authentication section which authenticates that there is no falsification in said produced image,

comparing an extracted second image data of an authentication object image which has been requested to be authenticated by said authentication section, with said first image data recorded in said database, in the said authentication section, in which said extracted authentication data and said authentication data recorded in said database have the same identification information,<sup>7</sup>

and

judging whether or not said authentication object image is falsified after said image production, based on consistency between said first and second image data characteristic amounts acquired from said comparison in order to prevent said falsification of said produced image based on said judgment,

wherein when looking at the consistency the exact matching between the data is not required.

5. (currently amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein said imaging apparatus has a camera, in which said produced image is a photographic image photographed by said camera, and said identification information is at least an identification

information of ~~said camera~~ or a file name of said photographic image or an identification information of a photographer of said photographic image.

6. (currently amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein said imaging apparatus has a computer, in which said produced image is a computer graphics image produced by said computer or an image which has been image-processed by said computer, and said identification information is at least an identification information of ~~said computer~~ or a file name of said produced image or an identification information of a producer of said produced image.

7. (original) A method of preventing falsification of a produced image produced in an imaging apparatus, comprising the steps of:

sending authentication data from an authentication section for authenticating a status that there is no falsification in a produced image which is produced by said imaging apparatus to said imaging apparatus,

recording said authentication data and identification information for identifying said produced image of said imaging apparatus into a database in said authentication section,

attaching said authentication data to said produced image or embedding said authentication data into said produced image, when said imaging apparatus produces said produced image,

extracting said authentication data from an authentication object image which has been requested to be authenticated in said authentication section,

comparing said extracted authentication data with said authentication data recorded in said database, in which said extracted authentication data and said authentication data recorded in said database have the same identification information, and

judging whether or not said authentication object image is falsified after said image production, based on consistency between said extracted authentication data and said authentication data acquired from said comparison in order to prevent said falsification of said produced image based on said judgment.

8. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein said imaging apparatus has a camera, in which said produced image is a photographic image photographed by said camera, and said identification information is an identification information of said camera or a file name of said photographic image or an identification information of a photographer of said photographic image.

9. (original) The method according to claim 7, wherein said imaging apparatus has a computer, in which said produced image is a computer graphics image produced by said computer or an image which has been image-processed by said computer, and said identification information is an identification information of said computer or a

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file name of said produced image or an identification information  
of producer of said produced image.